
Information Memorandum Between Coracle Diagnostic Ltd and Ms Lefatshe Moagi-Venter

Re: “South African Voices”: early detection of mental health problems in the youth of South Africa”

Executive Summary

Coracle Diagnostic Ltd, a technology company registered in the UK is seeking a collaboration with Ms Lefatshe Moagi-Venter, representative of the University of South Africa and the Thabo Mbeki School of Public & International Affairs as part of its “South African Voices” project. The project aims to research and deliver high impact, culturally appropriate interventions for Youth Mental Health in South Africa.

Coracle has applied for funding through Grand Challenges Canada’s Mental Health Programme and will cover all associated costs of the project. Coracle seeks a relationship with Ms Lefatshe Moagi-Venter, representative of the University of South Africa and the Thabo Mbeki School of Public & International Affairs, to conduct qualitative and quantitative research. Funding allocations will be made in January 2021, work is projected to begin in April 2021.

Project Overview

Working with local partners, Coracle has applied for funding for qualitative and quantitative research projects in South Africa through Grand Challenges Canada. Planned activities are as follows:

Conduct 100+ focus groups of 10-12 people each in townships, urban and rural areas across the 9 provinces.

Through these to hear the lived experience of mental health, mental illness and emotional distress of a wide range of individuals with a particular focus on young people (18-25) and women.

Signpost and offer access to appropriate interventions from one of 5 categories:

- Traditional and Faith Healing
- Psychiatric Services
- Psychosocial Services
- Peer Counselling
- Religious Support

Follow up over a period of 3-6 months to assess engagement with services, and changes in perceived mental health status.

Using a grounded theory approach supported by cutting edge machine learning technology to extract the key themes of the group as a whole, and subgroups within it.

From this to produce visualisations appropriate for stakeholders in community, government and commercial sectors, illustrating the perspectives and perceived needs of people on the ground.

Build, deliver and field-test predictive and analytical models to objectively measure mental state.

Publish quantitative research assessing the impact of active engagement and culturally and individually appropriate intervention strategies vs. no intervention.

Publish model evaluation statistics relating key objective measures of mental state to changes in mental health status over time.

Present findings to key stakeholders, informing the broader mental health strategy in South Africa going forwards.

Funding Details

Grand Challenges Canada is hosted in Toronto at the Sandra Rotman Centre, University Health Network. Their mission is to catalyze innovation that saves and improves the lives of the most vulnerable in Canada and low and middle-income countries. They bring a feminist approach to investment, and are one of Canada's largest impact-first investors, having supported over 1000 innovations across 95 countries.

The aim of Grand Challenges Canada's Global Mental Health Program is to seed and scale up, high impact innovations that support individual mental health needs in low and middle-income countries. With funding from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) UK aid through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)⁴ to support global health research.

South African Voices Project Team

Madam Lebogang Chaka - Chair

Dr Eric Molefe - Strategic Advisor

Nhlanhla Ndlovo - Community Lead

Vela Maseko - Clinical Lead

(proposed) **Lefatshe Moagi** - Academic Lead

Dr Christopher Crawshaw - Founder, Technical Lead

Nthathi Lesaoana - Project Delivery Lead

Partner Organisations



Coracle Diagnostic Ltd - IP owners and developer of technology.
Project lead



The Self Reliance Institute - Charity whose aim is to tackle barriers to black people taking advantage of opportunities



NEDLAC Community Trust - Promotion and raising awareness to recruit volunteers. Liaison with SA Youth Council, the voice of young people on the project's Advisory Board.



Community Constituency SA - Engagement with communities to recruit volunteers and deploy questionnaires.



Afro Visionary Legacy - Raising awareness of the project at government level. Ensuring gender equality.